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**Examining Group Number 1700**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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Applicant: LeRoy A Kuta et al. Examiner: Mark A. Osele  
 Serial No.: 09/883,144 Group Art Unit: 1734  
 Filed: June 15, 2001 Docket: 56731US002 (M120.I37.101)  
 Due Date: November 15, 2003  
 Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR AUTOMATICALLY APPLYING A  
 FLYING SPLICING TAPE TO A ROLL OF SHEET MATERIAL

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Sir:

I certify that the following papers are being telefacsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below:

1. Response under 37 C.F.R. 1.116 (6 pgs.).

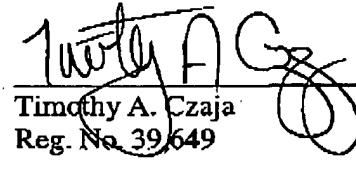
Respectfully submitted,

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**7 PAGES - INCLUDING COVER PAGE**